

A decorative border at the top of the page features two stylized lanterns hanging from a string. The lanterns are black with white outlines and have a small white circle in the center of each. The string is a simple black line.

Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

THE MOUSE PRINCESS

by Lois Walker

A Fanciful Folk Tale:
Celebrating The Third Night of
Chinese New Year

A Readers Theater Script
for Intermediate/Advanced
Readers

THE MOUSE PRINCESS

A Fanciful Folk Tale: Celebrating The Third Night of Chinese New Year
Adapted and Formatted for Readers Theater by Lois Walker

Cast: 7 Readers, Including Seven Character Voices.

READER 6: Once, a King Mouse and a Queen Mouse lived in the walls of an old stone temple in _____(city). The king and queen had one daughter whom they called "Mouse Princess" and they were very proud of her. To them, she was the most beautiful, most intelligent, and most talented mouse daughter in the world.

READER 5: Now, when the Rat Princess became old enough to marry, the king and queen were determined to help her find a husband who was worthy. No everyday mouse would do! The king and queen decided that their daughter should marry only the most powerful in all the world. But the queen said,

2/QUEEN: "Who IS the most powerful in all the world?"

READER 3: And the king said,

1/KING: "I will ask the old wise mouse who lives under the _____tree! Surely he will know who is the most powerful in all the world."

READER 4: But the old wise rat wasn't sure about the answer to that question. He considered many possibilities. Finally he made a suggestion.

7/OLD RAT: "Yes, I believe the most powerful in the world is the sun which shines in the sky. For without the sun, the rice would not grow in the rice paddies. Yes, yes! The most powerful in the world must be the sun."

1/KING: "Then it's to the sun I must travel!"

READER 6: And the king started off on his travels! He traveled across _____(city), across the farmers' fields, and up, up, up to the top of the highest peak in the _____ Mountains, and there he decided to STOP!

READER 5: From the top of the mountain, the King Mouse jumped upon one of the sun's rays and scurried along the ray until he found himself face to face with the mighty sun.

READER 5: The king bowed low and waited for the sun to speak first. Finally, the sun said,

3/SUN: "What do you want, little brother?"

1/KING: "I have come to offer you the hand of my daughter, the Mouse Princess, in marriage - oh sun - for you are the most powerful in all the world and no one else will do!"

READER 5: The sun laughed!

3/SUN: "If it is the most powerful you seek, I will not do at all. The cloud is more powerful than I, for when he floats in front of me, he blocks my rays from reaching the rice paddies. Yes, if it is the most powerful you seek, you must find the cloud!"

1/KING: "Then you will NOT DO AT ALL! It's to the cloud I must travel."

READER 7: And he began to travel! He traveled across the face of the sun, out along another of the sun's rays, until he reached the very tip and there he decided to STOP!

- READER 6:** The King Mouse waited for the cloud to drift by. When it finally drifted close, the king jumped from the top of the sun's ray onto the passing cloud. Then he scurried along until he reached the cloud's face.
- READER 2:** The king bowed low and waited for the cloud to speak first. Finally, the cloud said,
- 4/CLOUD:** "What do you want, little brother?"
- 1/KING:** "I have come to offer you the hand of my daughter, the Mouse Princess, in marriage - oh cloud - for you are the most powerful in all the world and no one else will do!"
- READER 3:** The cloud giggled!
- 4/CLOUD:** "If it is the most powerful you seek, I will not do at all. The wind is more powerful than I, for when he blows at me, I must go wherever he commands. Yes, if it is the most powerful you seek, you must find the wind!"
- 1/KING:** "Then you will NOT do at all! It's to the wind I must travel."
- READER 2:** And he began to travel! He ran around the face of the cloud. As the king ran, the cloud slowly drifted to the edge of the world where the wind lives, and there the king decided to STOP!
- READER 3:** The King Mouse saw the wind rushing past them at an impossibly high speed. But the king was determined! He jumped upon the back of the speeding wind. Then, he scurried to the front of the racing wind, bent down, and looked the wind right in the eye.